

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 March 2005 (24.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/026142 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C07D 311/00 (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2004/009749

(22) International Filing Date: 2 September 2004 (02.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 03020875.5 15 September 2003 (15.09.2003) EP

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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/026142 A2

(54) Title: A NEW ROUTE TO α -TOCOPHERYL ALKANOATES AND PRECURSORS THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention is concerned with a novel process for the manufacture of 4alkanoyloxy-2,3,5-trimethylphenyl (E/Z)-phytyl ethers, precursors of α -tocopheryl alkanoates, by cross-metathesis reaction of alkenyl ethers of 1-alkanoyloxy-2,3,6-trimethylhydroquinone with 2,6,10,14-tetramethylpentadecene or a phytol derivative, e.g. an ester, an ether or a silyl ether, in the presence of a cross-metathesis catalyst. As the crossmetathesis catalyst especially ruthenium metal carbene complexes are suitable which possess (a) ruthenium metal center(s), have an electron count of 16 or 18 and are penta- or hexa- coordinated. A further object of the invention is a process for the manufacture of α -tocopheryl alkanoates comprising this reaction.